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Paper No. 17

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of
ANDREW J. RITTER
Application No. 09/346,479
Filed: July 1, 1999
Attorney Docket No. 4806-2
Title: METHOD FOR INCREASING
LACTOSE TOLERANCE IN MAMMALS
EXHIBITING LACTOSE INTOLERANCE

DECISION GRANTING
PETITION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.137(b)

This is a decision on the petition filed July 22, 2005, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.137(b)¹, to revive the above-identified application.

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to reply within the meaning of 37 C.F.R. §1.113 in a timely manner to the final Office action mailed November 29, 2001, which set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months. No responses were received, and no extensions of time were requested. Accordingly, the above-identified application became abandoned on March 2, 2002. A Notice of Abandonment was mailed on June 19, 2002.

With the present petition, petitioner has filed the petition fee, an amendment, a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 as well as the associated fee and the proper statement of unintentional delay. The RCE has been accepted as the required reply under 37 C.F.R. §1.137(b)(1). The amendment submitted with the present petition shall serve as the required submission.

¹ A grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by:

- (1) The reply required to the outstanding Office action or notice, unless previously filed;
- (2) The petition fee as set forth in § 1.17(m);
- (3) A statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to this paragraph was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional, and;
- (4) Any terminal disclaimer (and fee as set forth in § 1.20(d)) required pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section.

As such, the petition is **GRANTED**.

After the mailing of this decision, the application will be forwarded to Technology Center 1600 for further processing.

The general phone number for the Office of Petitions which should be used for status requests is (571) 272-3282. Telephone inquiries regarding *this decision* should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3225.

It is noted that the address listed on the petition differs from the address of record. The application file does not indicate a change of correspondence address has been filed in this case, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. If petitioner desires to receive future correspondence regarding this application, the change of correspondence address must be submitted. A courtesy copy of this decision will be mailed to petitioner. However, all future correspondence will be directed to the address of record until such time as appropriate instructions are received to the contrary. Petitioner will not receive future correspondence related to this application unless Change of Correspondence Address, Patent Form (PTO/SB/122) is submitted for the above-identified application. For petitioner's convenience, a blank Change of Correspondence Address, Patent Form (PTO/SB/122), may be found at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/forms/sb0122.pdf>.

It is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue. Nevertheless, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay². In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that the delay in paying the maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.137(b) was intentional, petitioner must notify the Office.



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² See 37 CFR 10.18(b); cf. Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice, 62 Fed. Reg. 53131, 53178 (October 10, 1997), 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 63, 103 (October 21, 1997).